REPORTS

OF THE

PRESIDENT, TREASURER,

AND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

OF THE

Wilmington Institute,

MADE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1875.

PRINTED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

WILMINGTON:
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1875.

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LIST OF EX-PRESIDENTS

OF THE

WILMINGTON INSTITUTE.

For Term	ending	April,	1859,	JOSHUA T. HEALD.
"	"	"	1860,	WILLIAM CANBY.
"	"	"	1861,	SAMUEL BIDDLE.
"	"	"	1862,	WILLIAM S. HILLES.
"	"	"	1863,	GEO. W. BUSH.
"	"	"	1864,	DR. WM. R. BULLOCK.
"	"	"	1865,	DR. J. F. VAUGHAN.
"	"	"	1866,	JOHN H. ADAMS.
"	"	"	1867,	JOHN P. McLEAR.
"	"	"	1868,	S. M. HARRINGTON.
"	"	"	1869,	DANIEL W. TAYLOR.
"	"	"	1870,	WILLIAM H. SWIFT.
"	"	"	1871,	ANTHONY HIGGINS.
"	"	"	1872,	WM. M. CANBY.
"	"	"	1873,	GEO. H. BATES.
"	"	"	1874,	MAHLON M. CHILD.
"	"	"	1875,	REV. T. GARDINER LITTELL.

OFFICERS FOR 1875-76.

President.—HOWARD M. JENKINS.
Corresponding Secretary.—S. A. MACALLISTER.
Recording Secretary.—JOS. A. RICHARDSON.
Treasurer.—SAM'L D. SMITH.

DIRECTORS.

H. C. CONRAD, REV. T. GARDINER LITTELL
IGNATIUS C. GRUBB, WILLIAM CANBY.
Term Expires April, 1876.

JOHN C. COLE, W. S. AUCHINCLOSS,
EDWARD TATNALL, JR., MAHLON M. CHILD.
Term Expires April, 1877.

GEORGE H. BATES, WM. M. CANBY,
E. G. BRADFORD, JR., DR. WM. R. BULLOCK.
Term Expires April, 1878.

LIBRARIAN.

A. F. WILMANS.

STANDING COMMITTEES, 1875-76.

Ways and Means.

EDW. G. BRADFORD, JR.,
WM. M. CANBY,
GEO. H. BATES.

Donations and Archives.

REV. T. G. LITTELL,
MAHLON M. CHILD,
JOHN C. COLE.

Rooms and Fixtures.

MAHLON M. CHILD,
WILLIAM CANBY,
SAM'L D. SMITH.

Library.

W. S. AUCHINCLOSS,
DR. WM. R. BULLOCK,
I. C. GRUBB.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

S. A. MACALLISTER,
JOHN C. COLE,
DR. WM. R. BULLOCK.

Printing.

EDW. TATNALL, JR.,
I. C. GRUBB,
JOS. A. RICHARDSON.

Lectures.

H. C. CONRAD,
GEO. H. BATES,
WM. M. CANBY.

Eighteenth Annual Meeting.

WILMINGTON INSTITUTE, MONDAY, Apr. 12th, 1875.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Wilmington Institute was held in the library and reading room. President T. G. Littell in the chair.

The minutes of the seventeenth annual meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer and the several standing committees presented their annual reports, which were read.

The retiring President gave a statement of the proceedings of the Institute for the past year, presenting a comparative statement for the past five years, and making several suggestions as to a reduction of taxation and debt, and an increase in the number of share-holders.

The retiring President then introduced the President-elect, Mr. Howard M. Jenkins, who took the chair.

On motion, the executive committee were instructed to have the usual number of copies of the President's address, and the annual reports, printed for distribution.

On motion, adjourned.

JOS. A. RICHARDSON,
Rec. Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

SAMUEL D. SMITH, *Treasurer, in account with Wilmington Institute.*

DR. RECEIPTS.

To balance received from former Treasurer	$ 148 35
" cash received from Stockholders	2,859 50
" " " Rents	3,644 49
" " " use of Hall	1,723 65
" " " Directors' Room and Basement	29 22
" " " Fines	116 74
" " " Lost Books	12 52
" " " Sale of old Papers	7 52
	$8,541 99

CR. EXPENDITURES.

For Books	$ 627 01
" Newspapers and Periodicals	348 95
" Binding and Repairs	252 39
" Salary of Librarian	900 00
" " Assistant Librarian	240 00
" Gas	508 68
" Fuel	126 40
" Interest	1,112 25
" Bond No. 3, New Series	500 00
" Note to New Castle County Insurance Company	250 00
" Taxes, City and County	826 50
" State Tax	81 70
" Water Tax	42 00
" Insurance	242 00
" Printing	61 91
" Annual Report	41 00
" Wages of Janitor	462 00
" Police	76 25
" Enterprise Manufacturing Company	27 50
" Ferris & Garrett	28 29
" J. N. Ogle	46 25
" G. W. Gibson	189 96
" James Bradford	50 00
" 1 Paper File	24 25
" Sundries	75 01
Balance on hand April 1st, 1875	1,401 69
	$8,541 99

We have examined the accounts and vouchers of S. D. Smith, Treasurer, and find them correct, leaving a balance due the Wilmington Institute, of fourteen hundred and one dollars and sixty-nine cents. (1,401.69.)

WILLIAM CANBY,
IGNATIUS C. GRUBB,
Com. on Ways and Means.

April 9th, 1875.

REPORT OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

The committee on Ways and Means respectfully submit the following report:

Number of Annual members	662
" Life "	40
" Perpetual "	3
Total,	705
Decrease of membership for the past year	85
Number of shares of scrip disposed of	501
" " stock forfeited the past year	155
" " members not paid to date	107
Amount of taxes received from stockholders	$2,829 50
" " " " subscribers	$30 00

Since last report, five hundred dollars of the debt of the second mortgage bond has been paid, as well as two hundred and fifty dollars of the floating debt; leaving the present indebtedness of the Institute as follows:

Two mortgages held by the "Wilmington Saving Fund Society," one for thirteen thousand dollars and the other for five thousand dollars	$18,000 00
Five bonds for $500 each (mortgage held by Trustees)	2,500 00
Mortgage on adjoining property	3,500 00
Balance of note due New Castle Co. Mutual Insurance Co.	250 00
Total,	$24,250 00

Your committee regret to note *the decrease* of membership under the new arrangement of issuing stock. We would therefore repeat the recommendation of last year, to continue the distribution of scrip as a means of increasing our membership.

Our financial condition is favorable, the aggregate receipts of the present year, being *in excess* of the estimates made out at the beginning of the fiscal year, between two and three hundred dollars.

WILMINGTON, Mar. 30, 1875.

WILLIAM CANBY,
SAM'L. D. SMITH,
IGNATIUS C. GRUBB,
Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DONATIONS AND ARCHIVES.

WILMINGTON, DEL., April 1st, 1875.

The donations during the year have been, as usual heretofore, mostly public documents and reports of other Library corporations. That form of donation which would be most appropriate, and which it seems to your committee the Institute deserves—the gift or bequest of money—remains a stranger to the experience of the committee. The following list presents the titles of the books and pamphlets received:

From S. D. SMITH:
one volume, "Underground."

From Hon. THOS. F. BAYARD:
Report of the Civil Service Commission, and Catalogue of the University of Virginia.

From the several Societies or corporations named: 34th annual Report of the Mercantile Library Association of Baltimore: Report of the New Jersey Historical Society; Report of the Library Company of Philadelphia; Monthly Bulletin of the Boston Public Library; Report of the Apprentices' Library of Philadelphia; Report of the Mercantile Library Company of Philadelphia; Report of the Mercantile Library Association of San Francisco; Report of the Mercantile Library Company of New York; Report of the Boston Public Library; Report of the Chicago Public Library; List of Additions to the Philadelphia Library; 38th annual Report of the Young Men's Association of Buffalo, N. Y., with statistics relating to that city.

From —— ——:
one volume, "Oakwood Cemetery."

From Mrs. L. G. VAN KLEECK:
one volume, "Rock Me To Sleep, Mother."

From EDWARD BETTS, ESQ.:
"Tri-Nitro Glycerine."

From the DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. UNITED STATES:
56 volumes public documents, and report of the proceedings of the National Educational Association.

From DR. PUSEY HEALD:
"The Science of Health," for one year.

From the SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION:
Annual Reports for 1871 and 1874; Volumes 10, 11, and 12, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections; Volume 19, Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.

From BOUGHMAN, THOMAS & CO.:
the Trade List for 1874.

From Miss MARGARET TATNALL:
three volumes, "Gold and Dross," "Lord Hyre's Choice," "Hidden Depths."

From H. ARNUTT BROWN, ESQ.:
His Oration delivered at the Centennial Celebration of the First American Congress.

The Archives of the Institute, which are nominally in the charge of the committee, are believed to be duly taken care of. There are, however, amongst them, deposited in various places of receptacle, quite a number of interesting relics, donated to the Institute, at different times, which it would be better to have arranged in some suitable cabinet.

HOWARD M. JENKINS,
S. A. MACALLISTER,
EDW. G. BRADFORD, JR.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ROOMS AND FIXTURES.

The committee on Rooms and Fixtures report, they have had nearly all the rooms in the building rented, and have collected the rents and paid the same to the treasurer.

They have, under instructions from the Executive Committee, made such repairs as they thought best for the property of the Wilmington Institute, and paid the bills for the same.

The buildings have been insured as formerly, and at about old rates.

The receipts for the Hall and stores have exceeded the estimate made one year ago, by several hundred dollars, and the expenses come within the estimate, leaving the building in usual good repair, and, we think, fairly rented.

M. M. CHILD,
WM. M. CANBY,
IGNATIUS C. GRUBB,
Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LECTURES.

The committee on Lectures respectfully report that, owing to the fact that the Executive Committee deemed it inexpedient to have a course of lectures during the past year, no lectures have been given during that time.

GEO. H. BATES,
S. A. MACALLISTER,
HENRY C. CONRAD.

REPORT OF LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The committee in charge of the Library respectfully report that, during the past year, they have given due attention to their duties, which have, however, included very little that is unusual.

The number of books reported at the last annual meeting, as forming the Library, was 10,643. The number at the present time is 11,317, showing a net increase of 674 volumes.

The number of books issued to members during the past year, was 34,961 volumes, an increase in this respect over the previous year, of 4,762 volumes.

The committee believe that the Library is in as good condition, as regards material and management, as at any former time.

It was found necessary to add one new case in order to afford room for additional books.

A new catalogue has been prepared at great pains by the Librarian, and is now in the hands of the printer. The catalogue will include all books in the Library on the first of the present year. It is recommended that books purchased since that time be represented in supplementary catalogues, to be printed in the same form and published at the beginning of each year.

The catalogue will doubtless prove a great convenience to the members, many of whom, it is hoped, will find it to their interest to purchase copies, and in so doing, lessen the expense of its publication.

W. R. BULLOCK,
WM. M. CANBY,
Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

WILMINGTON INSTITUTE, March 30, 1875.

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The committee on Newspapers and Periodicals have to report for the year now closing, that this department of the Institute continues to be, as heretofore, one of its most popular and useful features, yielding a very large return, in enjoyment and information, for the outlay in its maintenance.

The committee would still keep in view the fact that we are greatly limited in space for the proper disposal of papers, &c., as well as in funds for the desired extension of our variety of periodical literature, and hope it may not be long before the growing prosperity of the Institute shall remove these two hindrances to the fuller development of this valuable branch of its advantages to the public.

The subscriptions are all paid in advance to the end of the year 1875. Amount expended by this committee since its last report, is $324.26.

The publications now regularly received and placed on file in the Reading Room, are as follows:

DAILIES, 18.

Baltimore American,
Boston Advertiser,
New York Graphic,
" Times,
" Tribune,
" Herald,
" World,
Washington Star,
Philadelphia Bulletin,
" Telegraph,
" Press,
" Ledger,
" Inquirer,
" North American,
Wilmington Commercial,
" Every Evening,
" Gazette,
" Republican.

WEEKLIES, 21.

Albany Country Gentleman,
Cincinnati Gazette,
Chicago Tribune,
Charleston News,
Dover Delawarean,
London Illustrated News,
" Punch,
" All the Year Round,
" Engineering,
New Orleans Picayune,
Pottsville Miners Journal,
St. Louis Democrat,
San Francisco Bulletin,
Westchester Village Record,
Wilmington Tribune,
" Journal,
" Advertiser,
Boston Littell's Living Age,
New York Scientific American,
" The Nation,
" Harper's Weekly.

MONTHLIES, 20.

Aldine,
Appleton's Journal,
Atlantic Monthly,
Blackwood's Monthly,
Contemporary Review,
Eclectic Magazine,
Franklin Institute Journal,
Godey's Lady's Book,
Galaxy,
Historical Magazine,
Harper's Magazine,
Lippincott's Magazine,
Manufacturer and Builder,
Overland Monthly,
Old and New Monthly,
Popular Science Monthly,
Scribner's Monthly,
St. Nicholas Monthly,
School Journal,
Silliman's Journal.

QUARTERLIES, 5.

North American Review,
" British Review,
London Review,
Edinburg Réview,
Westminister Review.

Total number of all classes, 64. These, as will be readily seen, comprise a strictly high order of publications, and give our members the best of the current news, information and thought, of the times, and the committee are gratified to see that they are duly appreciated, until the means can be obtained to enlarge the list.

JOHN C. COLE,
E. G. BRADFORD, JR.,
EDW. TATNALL, JR.,
Committee on Newspapers and Periodicals.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

The committee on Printing respectfully report that all business referred to it has received attention, and all bills contracted by it have been paid.

EDWARD TATNALL, JR.,
W. S. AUCHINCLOSS,
M. M. CHILD.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, STOCKHOLDERS OF THE INSTITUTE:

It is my duty, on retiring from the office in which you placed me, to give a statement of the proceedings of the Institute for the past year, and to make any suggestions which may be thought expedient.

The reports of the committees already read, give cause for encouragement, and, at the same time, are very suggestive as to where and how improvements may be made.

To give a clear idea of our work, and to facilitate comparisons between several years, some of my predecessors have presented tabular statements. I have compiled another such table:

COMPARATIVE TABLE.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL	1871.	1872	1873.	1874.	1875
Annual Income, . . .	$ 9,029 27	$ 9,351 24	$ 8,451 70	$8,167 31	$8,541 99
" Rents, . . .	6,625 95	6,819 50	6,280 21	5,246 80	3,644 49
Rents of Stores & Offices,	3,400 00	3,501 50	3,631 71	2,755 52	2,894 49
Rent of Hall.	2,780 45	3,300 00	2 635 50	1,738 11	1 723 65
Annual Dues, . . .	2,097 00	1,936 00	1,981 00	2,664 50	2,859 50
Debt, ...	27,500 00	26 500 00	26,000 00	25,000 00	24,250 00
Reduction of Debt, . .	1,500 00	1 000 00	500 00	1,000 00	750 00
Interest paid, . . .	1,685 25	1 637 41	1,602 94	1,560 00	1,112 25
No of Books in Library	9467	9652	10276	10643	11317
Annual Increase, . . .	401	185	1012	367	674
Books taken out. . . .	25220	22100	23770	30177	34961
Annual Ex. for Books, .	670 78	500 23	1,036 27	660 62	627 01
Total Ex. for Library,* .	2,052 90	1,766 65	2,955 70	2,214 03	2 368 35
Ex. for Newspapers and Periodicals, . .	312 30	293 15	304 47	340 42	348 95
Total Ex. for Lectures. .	250 16	168 23			
No. of Membr's (*Annual*)	501	475	479	747	662
No of Half Members, .	45	52	62		
State, Co., & City taxes.	632 03	692 72	856 90	959 70	950 20

* This includes payments for books, newspapers and periodicals, binding, Librarian and Assistant Librarian.

A catalogue of the Library is in course of preparation for the use of members, which will be of assistance, and more than compensate purchasers for its cost.

We cannot too often or too strongly urge that something be done to relieve the Institute from taxation. If this be an old story, frequent reference to it proves one fact, if it proves no other, that the opinion entertained long

ago has undergone no modification; and I trust that constant recurrence to it will cause those responsible for this utter inconsistency, in a land of free education, to grow so weary of it, that they will untie the hands of this educator, and give it an opportunity of doing, speedily, the noble work which it has planned. Nearly $1,000 annually, or almost one-eighth of our income is demanded of us for State, County, and City taxes. In other words, we are prevented from placing, annually, *seven hundred more volumes* in the hands of our people. The amounts paid in taxes during the past five years, would have enabled us to have purchased over 3,000 volumes.

Our debt annually absorbs more than $1,000. A portion of this debt is paid off each year, as much as is consistent with our efforts to supply the demands of our Library; but it is a burden which ought not to weigh upon us. Could we be relieved of this, and have the interest to expend upon books, another seven hundred volumes might be placed, annually, upon our shelves.

It is much to be regretted that more interest is not manifested in lectures. The Board of Directors have made every effort to supply this branch of its educational work, and if stockholders have not, for several years, realized any benefit from this former inducement to membership, it is simply because a sufficient number will not attend, although all such are admitted without additional payment. Should a proper interest ever revive, the Directors will gladly supply a course every Winter. They are encouraged to hope that this will be the case, as regard for books seems to be greatly on the increase, as is shown from the fact that during the past year, *eleven thousand* more volumes were taken out than were called for during the year ending April, 1873.

We earnestly call upon our stockholders to make continued effort to increase their number. Each has a personal interest in this. The larger our membership, the greater the benefit to each. Our usefulness depends greatly upon growth in numbers. The decrease during the past year is not the result of any failure in our new system, for last year under that system, our membership increased more than two hundred in a few months; but from other causes mainly depending upon the general financial difficulties. Still, an institution like ours should be placed upon such a footing, that it should not be so easily affected. We are accustomed to speak of it with pride, and are always glad to hear, from visitors, flattering remarks which imply our literary tastes; and yet many other cities smaller than ours have much larger libraries; and public spirit has, in many instances, been willing, by special efforts, to lift off the heavy burden of debt, unwilling to wait for the tedious process of years.

A great work of this kind cannot possibly be achieved by a Board of Directors alone. It is for your advantage, and we ask all to take part in the work of gathering in shareholders. Thus we can greatly hasten the time

when this entire building shall be devoted to the literary objects for which it was erected; when from 50,000 to 100,000 volumes shall be upon our shelves; and when large and commodious reading rooms shall be fitted up, with liberal accommodations for readers.

In closing, I most cordially thank all with whom I have been so pleasantly associated, for their uniform courtesy and kindness.

T. G. LITTELL.